Government of India along with the State Governments is organising various trades through (i) Craftsman training in the Industrial Training Institutes and (ii) Apprenticeship training in the industries.

Funds are also being provided to States|Union Territories under the scheme of Vocational Education to offer courses, specific to the needs of the user community, in the schools.

The schemes have increased employability and self-employment opportunities for school leaving students.

News-item captioned 'STC Nets Rs. 70 Lakhs in Soya Meal Export'

126. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Miinster of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "STC nets Rs. 70 lakhs in soya meal export" which appeared in the Economic Times, New Delhi of the 11th June, 1991, in which it has been stated that STC has started processing soya bean to cater soya meal market abroad;

(b) if so, whether the role of directly processing seeds for exports would affect STC's efficiency in accelaration exports of other processors at this critical juncture;

(c) whether STC had contacted cooperative institutions, such as projects assisted NDDB or National Cooperative Development Corporation in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan before deciding on processing of soya beans through job contracts; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for failure in reaching an accord with cooperative processor in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. STC is processing soya beans on its own account in order to augment its export turnover of extractions. The soya bean oil derived in the process is sold in the domestic market.

(b) No, Sir. With the decline of imports canalised through STC, the processing of soyabeans by it has contributed a turnover of Rs. 14 crores during the first year of its operation by utilising the indigenous processing capacity.

(c) and (d) Processing units in the Public|Cooperative|Joint Sectors were also contacted by STC and the selection of the units was finalised on the basis of their competitiveness.

Application of Super 301 Classification

127. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the press report regarding application of "Super 301" classifications to India; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what steps Government propose to persuade USA to withhold the penalties under "Super 301"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) On 26 April 1991, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) designated India as a Priority Foreign Country under the Special 301 provision of the U.S. Omnibus Trade & Competitiveness Act of 1988 along with China and Thailand for allegedly denying adequate and effective protection of intellecual property rights and having an adverse impact, actual or potential, on US products.

Under the Special 301 provisions, if a country is identified as a Priority Foreign Country, the USTR must initiate an investigation of the policies and practices